

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 8, Folder 18

July 13, 1956 -  
November 7, 1956

0476

13 July, 1956

Dear Bill:

Thank you very much for your letter of 8 July. I have not as yet selected a liaison officer since many of the officers of my staff who will be here for three years have not reported and I will be unable to do this until I look them over and see what their qualifications are. However, I appreciate your suggestion about the "mathematical language" and will do everything I can in this respect.

I have a favor to ask if I may. On the day after your lecture on Sound Military Decision, we have asked Commodore Bates to talk on the Practical Aspects of Decision Making and give us the benefit of his World War II experience relative to some of the engagements and decisions made by our higher Naval Commands in the field. Commodore Bates has asked me to find out from you what line of attack you will take in your lecture as he wants to supplement what you bring out by referring to actual practice. If, when you have completed a draft of your talk or an outline, we would appreciate it very much if you would let us have it in time for Commodore Bates to prepare his lecture so that it will be in consonance with yours. I would appreciate anything you can do relative to this.

I am looking forward to seeing you in August and find out the results of your talks with Brookings and how they feel toward our research project.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

T.W. HOGAN

Dr. William A. Reitzel  
R.D., South Royalton, Vt.

0477

100-4-6-56

P. O. Box 3662  
Carmel California.  
13 July 1956.

Dear Rafe:

I enjoyed our visit this morning very much. Your last letter mentioned a prospective visit with Admiral Spruance but I was Surprised at your voice over the 'phone nevertheless.

Again let me say that we are most appreciative of your interest in our son, Bob.

In accordance with our conversation I am repeating that portion of the letter I had roughed out and returning the plots as you requested:

The track charts are most interesting and insofar as I can remember the details, a most satisfactory presentation. I brought no records away with me so I am entirely dependent upon my memory. I think you would do well to ask Mac Bledsoe, my flag captain, for his recollections, which for details may be far better than mine. I was in Flag plot during the engagement and until first light.

We did have difficulties with station keeping due to the slow speed. No doubt that is the reason for the first change from the base course. Further, we were straddled several times which fact was reported by Bledsoe at least twice. My rejoinder was that there was nothing I could do about it at the moment and my recommendation was simply haul in his neck!

It was in 1951, I believe, when I talked with Ted Ruddock about the battle he said my report to Oldendorf about being straddled was his inspiration to commence firing. Up to that time the battle line had not opened up. Apparently his action in our behalf was effective. Ted said his flagship's first salvo was on.

As for the Grant, as it unfortunately turned out to be, - I had at least two requests for permission (from Bledsoe) to open fire on this ship. I delayed granting permission for some time. I recollect going over to the radar scope and questioning the officer operator whose job it was to assist in keeping track of the various ships. He could not identify the one in question. It was not behaving as a friendly ship should in withdrawing after an attack and seemed to be increasingly menacing to our own forces. Consequently, after much consideration I authorized the ship to open fire.

With kindest regards and best wishes

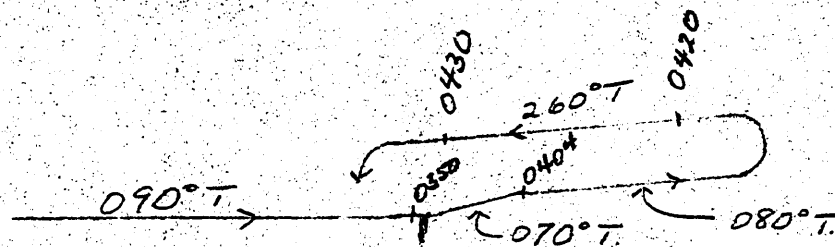
Sincerely

Bob

"Bob" is  
Rear Admiral  
Robert Hargis  
Commanding  
Cruiser 12

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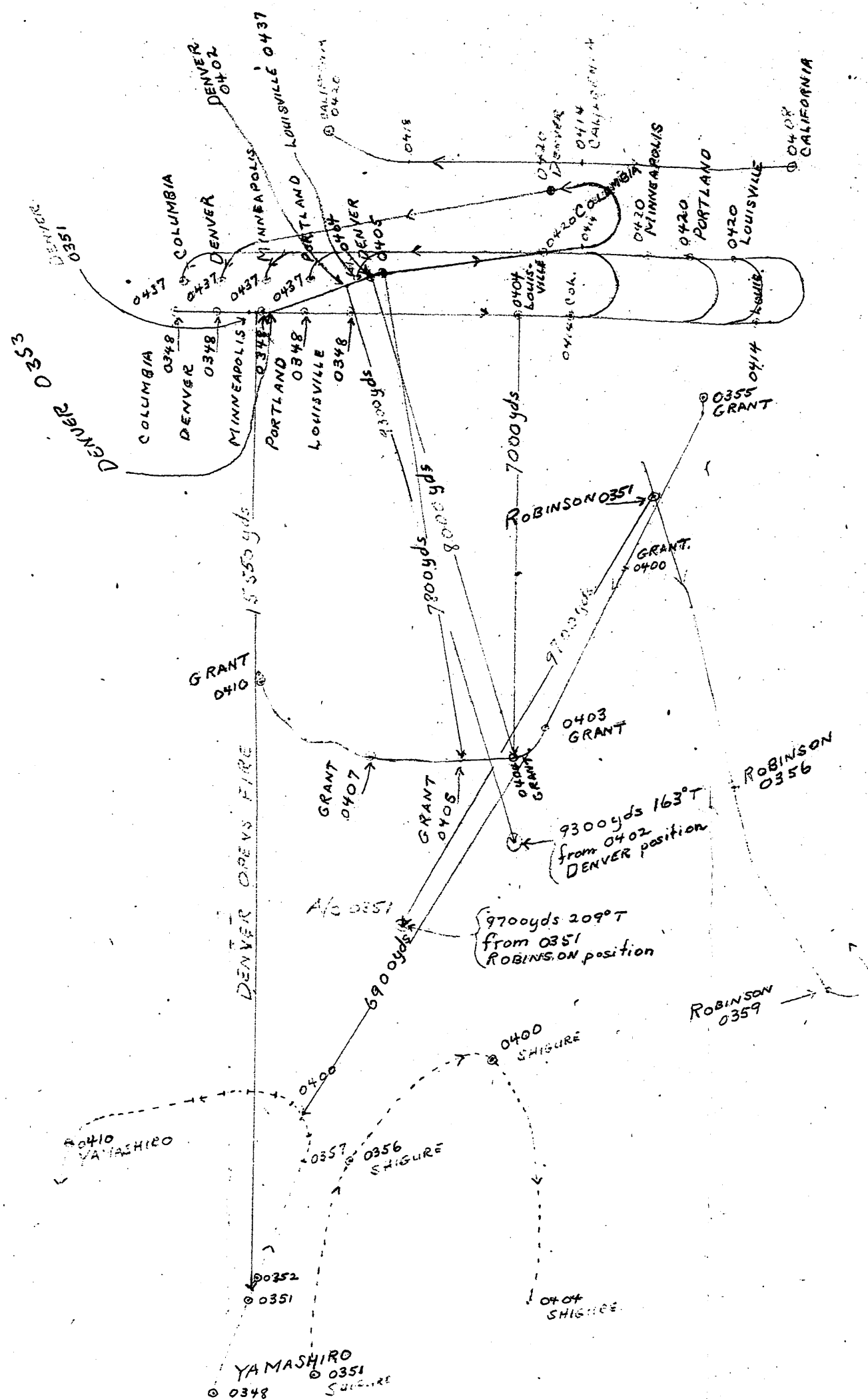
TRACED FROM  
DENVER TRACK CHART



ENCLOSURE (1)

0479

# SURIGAO PLOT



## DENVER RADAR RANGES & BEARINGS

TIME	REPORTED	PLOT
0402	9300 163° T	UNKNOWN (1) AIRCRAFT
0403	LOST TARGET	
0404	8000 165° T	8000 163° T
0405	— 172° T	7800 169° T

(1) ROBINSON REPORTED AT 0351  
THAT SHE HAD RADAR CONTACT  
ON ~~UNKNOWN~~ AIRCRAFT AT 9700  
YARDS.

## LOUISVILLE

0404	7090 183° T	7000 179° T
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## GRANT

0403:45	6900 209° T	6900 209½° T
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## DENVER OPENS FIRE

0351:30	15500 182° T	15550 179° T
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Scale: 1" = 2000 yards.

ENCLOSURE (2)

0480

~~Haverford College~~  
~~Haverford, Pa.~~

North Royalton  
Vermont.

16 July.

Dear Tom:

The best I'll be able to do for Commodore  
Bates will be to bring a draft of my  
talk down with me when I come to the  
College at the end of August. I hope  
this will do for him.

All the best.

Yours,

Bill.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Commodore

DATE: 19 July '56

FROM : Hogan brought these items over for you  
in connection with preparation of your  
SUBJECT: lecture.

We request their return at your  
convenience.

Respy  
Gimber

0482

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
Newport, R.I.

NAVWARCOL 5420.3B  
BA/HCS:ka  
31 August 1956

NAVWARCOL INSTRUCTION 5420.3B

From: President, Naval War College  
To: All Staff Officers

Subj: Staff Briefings and Previews; procedures for

Ref: (a) NavWarCol Instr 3510.1 of 27 Mar 1952  
(b) NavWarCol Instr 5420.3A of 24 Sep 1952

1. Purpose. The purpose of this instruction is to set forth the purposes and to establish the procedures governing the scheduling of, and attendance at, staff briefings and previews.

2. Effective Date. This Instruction is effective upon receipt.

3. Cancellation. This instruction cancels and supersedes references (a) and (b).

4. General.

(a) Staff Briefings are intended to acquaint staff members with the scope, method and purpose of curriculum items and the details of how the purpose is to be achieved. Emphasis is placed on the relationship of the curriculum item to the overall curriculum.

(b) Staff Previews are intended to provide staff members with an opportunity to pre-view lectures and presentations scheduled in support of curriculum items. Staff previews are intended to accomplish the following in regard to certain lectures and presentations:

- (1) Insure that the content is factual.
- (2) Weigh the content against the purpose of the presentation, and the requirements of the course of which it will be a part.
- (3) Assist the person making the presentation to improve the general aspects of the presentation.
- (4) Prevent repetition of information to be covered in other presentations.

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5. Special Conditions.

- a. Presentation for a single course may be previewed at the discretion of the responsible Department Head. The Head, Academic Plans Group, should be notified at least six weeks in advance of the date of such staff presentations.

6. Action.

a. Head, Academic Plans Group will:

- (1) Schedule previews for presentations which will be delivered to the members of two or more courses.
- (2) Schedule previews for presentations for a single course when requested by Department Heads.
- (3) Publish a monthly "Staff Briefing and Preview Schedule" prior to the beginning of each month during the academic year.

b. Heads of Departments will:

- (1) Submit to the Head, Academic Plans Group, curriculum items for which staff briefings are desired.
- (2) Submit to the Head, Academic Plans Group previews desired for presentations involving a single course.
- (3) Nominate preview board members to the Head, Academic Plans Group.
- (4) Act as Chairmen of Preview Boards for their departments. If necessary, the Assistant Head of Department may be designated to act as Chairman.

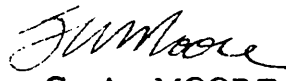
- c. The Preview Board Members will make recommendations for modification, rescheduling, or elimination of presentations to the Chairman of the Preview Board and to the Heads of their own Departments.

NAVWARCOL 5420.3B  
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7. Attendance:

a. General.

- (1) Staff Briefings. Attendance of all staff members at Staff Briefings is encouraged. For an item in which all classes participate, members of the academic departments, plus members of the Academic Plans Group, should attend as practicable. For an item in which only one or two classes participate, as many members as practicable of the departments whose students are participating, and appropriate liaison representatives of the other academic departments, should attend.
- (2) Staff Previews. Only those nominated for the Staff Previews need attend.

  
G. A. MOCRE  
By direction

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

9 October 1956

From: Captain H. M. S. GIMBER, Jr., U.S. Navy  
To: ~~Chief of Staff~~  
Via: Head, World War II Battle Evaluation Group

Subj: Digest and Regular Trip Report

Ref: (a) Naval War College Instruction 1321.1 <sup>4 Oct 1956</sup> ~~dated 24 Mar 1954~~

1. This combined Digest and Regular Trip Report is submitted in compliance with the reference. I was in Washington, D.C. on temporary additional duty 1-3 October for the primary purposes of (a) doing background reading of certain historical material held by the Department of the Army and (b) seeking certain information in connection with the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

a. Persons contacted:


(1) CAPT F. Kent LOOMIS	OP29B
(2) RADM E. M. ELLER	OP29
(3) MAJ Chas. E. PREBLE	OCSA Comm Off
(4) LCDR MORRIS	OP30G2
(5) CAPT M. J. JENSEN	OP 342
(6) Mesdames Moore and Aldrich	Departmental Records Branch, AGO

b. (1) Arrangements and contacts in the Department of the Army were made through the cooperation of CAPT LOOMIS.

(2) Major PREBLE conducted a fruitless search of the Chief of Staff, Army, Communications Log for the period 15-25 October 1944 for dispatches thought to have been sent by and to General MacArthur.

(3) LCDR MORRIS and CAPT JENSEN were requested to provide CTF 74 supplement to USFLOA but were unsuccessful. CAPT JENSEN expressed a concern for the development of new tactical doctrine in light of the revolutionary changes in naval ships and weapons as has been separately reported to the Head, S&T Department.

(4) Various records were examined in the Departmental Records Branch and arrangements were made with Mrs. Aldrich to have the MacArthur Histories loaned to the War College upon application which has already been forwarded.

  
H. M. S. GIMBER, Jr.  
Captain, U.S. Navy

0486

DWIGHT SHEPLER  
95 DUDLEY ROAD, NEWTON CENTRE 59, MASSACHUSETTS

Nov. 7, 1956

R.W. Bates, Rear Admiral, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, R.I.

Dear Admiral Bates;

Your letter came while I was working on a project out of town, and I regret this delay in catching up on it. It was wonderful to hear from you, and the current elections recall to mind that it was exactly four years ago that we worked together on that portrait in the guest lecturer's study. Admiral Conolly figured election prognostications while sitting, and his domestic political estimates were startlingly accurate.

Since reading your letter I have been several days in serious thought and divided mind, for I am most complimented that you should think of me in this connection again, and grateful for your appraisal of the work I have done. My feeling for the Navy and the War College is a strong one; yet going on active duty, for the month or more that seems to elapse in carrying out the processes of most of my portraits, considerably lowers my earning power at a time when (praise be) there are several commissions on the agenda. This is in view of the responsibility for a large family with two just reaching college age.

I hope you will know that financial considerations are a secondary interest, but I want to enlarge slightly for clarity. The sum derived for 30 days of salary was in the previous case, and is more so now, considerably under the quotation for comparable portraits I have been doing for institutions or individuals. The enjoyable obligations of active duty would limit me on carrying out details of water color exhibitions and publication work which are a continuing operation, and particularly during the coming months have to be met.

These are only complications to something I sincerely wish to do, and would be honored in so doing. Would there be an alternative? If funds for

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DWIGHT SHEPLER  
95 DUDLEY ROAD, NEWTON CENTRE 59, MASSACHUSETTS

such purposes can be found I would happily break a rule for the War College and execute the portrait of Admiral Robbins at \$1100, a reduction of \$500, and cover my own travel expenses etc. between here and Newport.

I know that you as a friend and compatriot in literature and art will understand this letter and know my feeling of devotion to the Navy. I am keen to have the opportunity of painting the portrait of Admiral Robbins and working with you again.

The European project is completed, and except for the remote possibility of some work there for a few weeks in March, I am back on base here and available in the future. I would much appreciate your thoughts on these suggestions.

With all best regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

*Dwight C. Shepler*  
"Ship"

P.S. My friend "Albie" Pratt who is Undersecretary of the Navy for Personnel and Reserve Forces is going to be home here the week-end of Nov. 24 and my wife and I are going to be at his house for lunch before the Harvard-Yale game. If there is any aspect of this that would come under his cognizance which you would wish me to take up under your direction, I could do so while he is in town.

*\* as reported to Com One & Bureau.*

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